

A-10C Thunderbolt II

What is it? The A-10C Thunderbolt II has excellent maneuverability at low air speeds and altitude, and is a highly accurate weapons-delivery platform. The aircraft can loiter near battle areas for extended periods of time and operate under 1,000-foot ceilings (303.3 meters) with 1.5-mile (2.4 kilometers) visibility. The wide combat radius and short takeoff and landing capability permit operations in and out of locations near front lines. Using night vision goggles, A-10 pilots can conduct their missions during darkness.

The A-10 has recently completed the precision engagement modification, which added upgraded cockpit displays, moving map, hands on throttle and stick, digital stores management, LITENING and Sniper advanced targeting pod integration, situational awareness data link or SADL, variable message format, or VMF, global positioning system or GPS-guided weapons, and upgraded DC power. Precision engagement modified aircraft changed the aircraft designation from A-10A to A-10C.

What has the Air National Guard done?

The ANG has participated in operations Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Provide Comfort, Desert Fox, Noble Anvil, Deny Flight, Deliberate Guard, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom with this Aircraft.

What continued efforts have the Air National Guard planned for the future?

The ANG plans to continue training in the A-10C and supporting deployments from its 5 locations. The 2 recent additions to the ANG A-10C community are the 107FS at Selfridge, MI and the 163FS at Fort Wayne, IN.

- 1) Training Needs
 - a. 5 more A-10 Full Mission Trainers (FMTs) at \$5 million each
- 2) Critical Combat Capabilities List
 - a. Capability to operate in Global Positioning System (GPS)/ Data Link degraded/denied environment
 - b. Improved Electronic Countermeasures (ECM)
 - c. Engine modernization
- 3) Essential Capabilities List
 - a. Laser Guided Rockets
 - b. Specialized Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR)/Urban Close Air Support (CAS) weapons
 - c. Laser threat protection for eyes and sensors
 - d. Combat Fuel Tank
 - e. Onboard Oxygen Generation System (OBOGS)
 - f. Upgraded Cockpit Displays
- 4) Desired Capabilities List
 - a. NVG Camera
 - b. New Wide Field of View Heads Up Display (HUD)
 - c. Wide Band Situational Awareness Data Link (SADL)
 - d. New Radar Altimeter

Why is this important to the Air National Guard?

The ANG maintains, operates, and trains with approximately 1/3 of the of the entire A-10C fleet.